

CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A television set-top terminal, comprising:
a computer readable medium having computer program code means; and
means for executing said computer program code means to implement an Application Programming Interface (API) for accessing and managing multiple resources at the terminal, wherein:
the API provides a resource package for registering the available resources at the terminal, a management package for managing states of the resources, and a registry package for storing objects that represent the resources.
2. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:
the management package manages the states of the resources according to an ITU-T X.731 standard for state management.
3. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the available resources include at least one of:
a tuner, a modem, a database, a plug-in module, a cable, a software module, a network interface card, and a conditional access module.

4. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the API provides a resource registry for maintaining a record of resource managers that provide access to individual resources.
5. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:
the API is independent of an operating system and hardware of the terminal.
6. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:
the API groups resources of the same type, and manages the grouped resources as a group.
7. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:
the API monitors behavior of the resources, and attaches corresponding management information to the resources.
8. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:
said API enables the resources to advertise their respective states to at least one application at the terminal.
9. (Original) The terminal of claim 8, wherein:
said API enables the application to access the advertised states of the advertising resources.
10. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

said API enables administrative locking and unlocking of the resources.

11. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

said API enables the resources to advertise respective alarm statuses thereof to at least one application at the terminal.

12. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

said API enables the resources to advertise respective availability statuses thereof to at least one application at the terminal.

13. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

said API enables the resources to advertise respective procedural statuses thereof to at least one application at the terminal.

14. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

said API enables the resources to advertise respective operational states thereof to at least one application at the terminal.

15. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

said API enables the resources to advertise respective administrative states thereof to at least one application at the terminal.

16. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

said API enables the resources to advertise respective usage states thereof to at least one application at the terminal.

17. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

The resources are used for downloadable applications at the terminal.

18. (Currently amended) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the applications include at least one of:

video on demand (VOD), audio on demand, pay-per-view, interactive shopping, electronic commerce, electronic program guides, Internet browsers, ~~mail services~~ (e.g., ~~text e-mail, voice mail, audio mail, and/or video mail~~), telephony services, stock ticker, weather data, travel information, games, gambling, banking, shopping, [[and]] voting, and mail services, where said mail services include at least one of: text e-mail, voice mail, audio mail, and video mail.

19. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein:

The applications enable at least one of Internet connectivity and Internet-based telephony.

20. (Original) A method for implementing a software architecture for a television set-top terminal, comprising the steps of:

providing a computer readable medium having computer program code means; and

executing said computer program code means to implement an Application Programming Interface (API) for accessing and managing multiple resources at the terminal; wherein:

the API provides a resource package for registering the available resources at the terminal, a management package for managing states of the resources, and a registry package for storing objects that represent the resources.